

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the President included maximum debt reduction, strengthening Social Security and Medicare and a \$1 trillion budget reserve to pay for things that may come up, like agriculture.

I am also very pleased that he is strengthening our families by lifting the burden of death tax that makes it hard to pass on the farm or family business to the next generation, addressing the marriage penalty and doubling the per-child tax credit.

But today we vote on an across-the-board tax relief for our families. As I travel around southwest Minnesota talking to families and farmers and small businesses, they tell me that we need to give the economy a boost right now to keep it moving in the right direction. This will provide real money that families can use to pay down credit card debt or to spend a little less time working for the government and a little more time with their own families.

It is because of this that this Kennedy will be voting for across-the-board tax relief today.

BUDGET FIRST, TAX CUT LATER

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, the House will take up and consider a major tax cut today without ever having first adopted a budget to see if the tax cut will fit within that budget. No American family, no business would engage in major spending without first adopting a budget.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the Congress to adopt a budget resolution before votes on tax cuts. The 33 members of the Blue Dog coalition in the House will lead the fight today for a budget first, asking this House to commit to the letter and the spirit of the Budget Act.

Democrats want the largest tax cut we can afford, but we do not know how much we can afford until we first have a budget debate and determine what the budget resolution of this Congress provides for. Then we will know how big a tax cut we can afford.

HONORING JANET RAY WEININGER

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to honor the compassion of Janet Ray Weininger, founder of Wings of Valor, a charity which provides humanitarian assistance to the people of Nicaragua. Organized by Janet in 1998 as a result of the horrific natural disasters in Central America, Wings of Valor brought food, clothing, shelter and assistance to the most remote towns and villages in Nicaragua.

Janet was appalled by what she saw and what she heard from friends there, so she knew she had to do something to help bring relief. She gained the help of the Air Force Reserve unit at Homestead, Florida, and with their assistance was able to gather needed provisions and distribute them to the people of Nicaragua.

Three years later, Wings of Valor continues to minister to the needs of the Nicaraguan people; and because of her continued and selfless charity, Janet Ray Weininger deserves the recognition of the U.S. Congress and, indeed, the American people.

WRITE A BUDGET, THEN GIVE TAX CUTS

(Mr. HILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, a politician's first instinct is to promise everything to everybody. It is a lot easier for politicians to say yes to everybody and put off the tough choices until later. That is why this House set up a budget process that forces us to make tough choices between our competing priorities. It is the same process every responsible American family and business follows. Before they start spending money, they sit down and figure out how much they have.

In a perfect world we would have all the money we needed to take care of all our priorities. But this is not a perfect world. We have to make tough choices. If we want to give people bigger tax cuts, we will have to take some money out of Social Security and Medicare. If we want to pay down more debt, we will have to restrain spending or tax cuts.

Let us do the hard work first. Let us write a budget, laying out our priorities, then let us give people tax cuts. President Bush and the Senate are debating tax cuts within a budget framework and we should be doing that in the House as well.

SUDAN PEACE ACT

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, even now, in the 21st century, atrocities are being committed in other countries that boggle the mind, and not always by individual terrorist groups. They are also being committed by governments.

Yesterday, I joined my colleagues, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDI) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), in announcing the reintroduction of the Sudan Peace Act. What is going on in the Sudan is as bad as anything ever committed by any government anywhere: slavery, actual slavery, rape campaigns, starvation campaigns, intentional bombings of churches, schools, hospitals, mar-

kets, and villages are happening. This is how the radical Sudanese Khartoum regime intends to put down the Christians, the Animists in the south.

The world community has completely failed to stand up to the Sudanese government. Our former Secretary of State, Madelyn Albright, said the crisis in the Sudan "wasn't marketable." But yesterday, Secretary Powell indicated renewed, and I think heartfelt, interest in standing up to the Sudanese.

Let us pass the Sudan Peace Act quickly and work with this administration to bring peace in that war-torn land.

BUDGET FIRST, TAX CUTS LATER

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I gladly join my colleagues to ask this Congress to do what every American family does, at least those who do keep their heads above the water, and that is provide a budget and then determine how much they can spend,—weekly, monthly and yearly for their families.

The projection of over \$5 trillion as a surplus is not a reality. We do not know what can happen tomorrow. And frankly, this fiscally irresponsible vote today does not answer the question of whether or not we have a budget to help students go to school with Pell Grants, to provide dollars for historically black colleges and Spanish-serving colleges or institutions of higher learning across the Nation or institutions serving native Americans.

Do we have the Medicare guaranteed-drug prescription benefit that our seniors need? Or are we giving the 1 percent of Americans, the wealthiest, the highest tax cut without again determining what we need in order to provide for investments in our nation? Do we have enough money for our veterans, who have given of themselves, and the many families of veterans, and those families left behind by our service people who have given the ultimate sacrifice? We need a budget before we need a tax cut.

AMERICANS DESERVE TAX RELIEF

(Mr. GRAVES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, working Americans deserve tax relief. The American family's tax burden has now reached its highest level since World War II. In fact, the average American will have to work 129 days to pay off their total tax bill. Mr. Speaker, no one, regardless of income level, should have to pay more than one-third of their hard-earned paycheck in taxes to the Federal Government.

Americans will send \$5.6 trillion more to Washington over the next 10